

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 12, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claim 18 is amended. Accordingly, claims 18-19 are currently pending, with claims 1-17 and 20-33 being withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Since Applicants have amended claim 18, Applicants respectfully submits that this rejection is traversed.

In the Office Action, claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Applicants' Related Art (ARA) in view of Yamada et al. (JP 2002-258299). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 18 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 18 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "N syringes are supported by one support so that  $N \times M$  nozzles are simultaneously aligned with the dispensing position by moving the support." None of the cited references including Yamada et al., singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these features of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 and claim 19, which depends from claim 18, are allowable over the cited references.

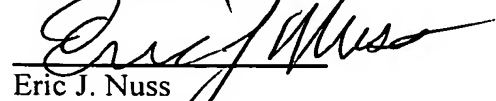
Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: April 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



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